



# Autauga/Prattville CERT Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 2

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*... doing the  
greatest good for  
the greatest  
number.*

- Ben Reddoch, CERT Chairman
- Allen Cotton, Vice Chairman
- Roy LaPorte, Secretary
- Rita Nichols, Treasurer
- Everett Flynn, Safety Coordinator
- Bonnie Temple, Member at Large
- Gary Barron, Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator

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## Meet Your Council By: Ben Reddoch



Hello, all! Allow me to introduce myself. I am Ben Reddoch and I am now in my second term as the Chairman of the Autauga/Prattville CERT Council. As Chairman, it has been a pleasure molding the future of our CERT, and it has been an honor working with all of our volunteers in helping our community in times of need.

I moved to Prattville in 1979 from Montgomery at the tender age of 13 and began the second half of the Seventh grade. I went on to graduate from Prattville High School in 1984 and then attended Auburn Mont-

gomery where I majored in Information Systems. In my working career, I spent 20 years in retail management and then changed paths for 6 years and became a project manager for a local home builder in the Prattville / Millbrook area. Then, of course the housing bubble happened. Now I am the Operations Manager for the Montgomery branch of Interstate Electrical Supply. We are a family owned business based out of Columbus, GA. I enjoy not only our customers but having a positive impact on the direction that our company is moving.

On a personal note, I married my wonderful wife, Brenda in 1999. She had a wonderful little boy named Michael when we got married. He was 6. Now

he has become a fine young man at the age of 21 and I am proud to call him my son. Although I have a lot of varied interests, my two biggest hobbies are anything to do with space and gardening.

My CERT career began with the Fall class of 2010. I had heard about our CERT program for the first time earlier that year on a local radio talk show. Needless to say I was a bit nervous. This was my first venture into the volunteer community and I haven't looked back. I thoroughly enjoy the fellowship of the other members of CERT and working to make Autauga / Prattville CERT a keystone of our community and a benchmark in the state. Thank you all for your service to this fine organization and to our community and I appreciate all of your support and ideas!

## Are You Prepared? By Roy LaPorte



In April 2013 a magnitude 2.3 was felt in the Huntsville area. Are you prepared? The Pratt-

ville/Autauga County CERT is again participating in the Great Central U.S. Shakeout earthquake drill. On October 17 at 10:17am Central time the drill will commence. CERT has participated in this drill for the last 3 drills. We had over 60 folks, not just members, participate in 2012 and in February of this

year, we had 30 members alone participate in their homes and businesses. Part of the CERT mission is to educate and spread the word about preparedness. If you are interested in participating please register at [www.shakeout.org/centralus/](http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/). The Prattville/Autauga County  
*(Continued on page 2)*



**CERT General Meeting**  
Thursday, October 17th, 6pm at St. Joseph's Church. ~ Potluck Dinner ~ So be sure to bring your favorite dish!





## Are You Prepared? (contd. from pg.1)

CERT is already registered, so you can just participate as part of CERT or register your family or business/organization. Please just let us know that you participated by providing your name and total number of folks who participated. An email ([autaugacountyCERT@yahoo.com](mailto:autaugacountyCERT@yahoo.com)) or call (334-365-3785 EMA) is fine. We just try to

get a total number of participants for historical purposes. The Great Shakeout website has lots of information and things to help in preparing your drill. In February, I provided training by showing videos from the site on the 'Drop, Cover and Hang On' and then for the actual event, started it off by playing the Drill Audio

Broadcast over the facility mass notification system. Once the "earthquake" was over, management had a report in to check the status of the facility and personnel. Please take the time to consider participating. It takes less than 5 minutes to better prepare yourself, your family and your community in the event of an earthquake.

### \*\* Upcoming Chainsaw Cutting Class\*\*



We are in the process of setting the date for a Chainsaw Cutting Class hosted by Husqvarna. Date of class yet to be finalized. Tentative date-between October 10th and October 17th. Anyone interested, please contact Ben Reddoch for more information at [reddochb@charter.net](mailto:reddochb@charter.net)

## New CERT Class To Begin ~ Spread the Word!



The Autauga County Emergency Management Agency will be sponsoring a new CERT class. The class will begin on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> 2013. It will consist of 8 classes that will be held at the Prattville Fire Department Training Facility every Tuesday and Thursday evening for 4 weeks. The final class will be an exercise train-

ing night that allows you to put everything you've learned to use. This is a great way to come together as a community and learn how to prepare for a disaster and what to do during a disaster. So, please tell all your friends, neighbors, co-workers and family members about the class, as always there is no cost and we look forward to a great turn out. And, for any current CERT member(s) if you would like to touch up on any training or just take a refresher course, you may do so

during this time and it will count as a training session for you. Either way, whether you are new or just refreshing your knowledge and skills, call Roxanne Royal at the EMA office 334-361-3758 to get signed up.



## Survey Says... By CERT Council

In an effort to find out why you joined CERT, what kind of training you would like, how often you would like training offered and any other ideas or suggestions you might have, the CERT Council developed a survey and emailed to all the CERT members. The council would ask if you have not done so already, please answer the survey and email it back to [autaugacountycert@yahoo.com](mailto:autaugacountycert@yahoo.com) as soon as possible. We would like for you to answer all the questions honestly, if you are happy about something tell us

and if you don't like something tell us that also. We developed this survey because we want to know the best way we can help train you to be ready in the time of any disaster to best help yourself, your family, your neighbors, the City of Prattville and Autauga County. If you did not receive the survey via email please email Roy LaPorte at [autaugacountycert@yahoo.com](mailto:autaugacountycert@yahoo.com), let him know so he can verify your email address and email it again. If you do not have an email, we still want to know

your thoughts, so we would ask that you please call or go by the EMA and ask for Roxanne or Kristen, let them know that you would like a copy of the survey have/mailed to you. We ask that you please mail or drop off the survey to the EMA office when done. Thank you for all your time and most of all thank you for your dedication to our city, our county and all its citizens. We look forward to reading your thoughts and ideas.

CERT Council



**Disaster Fact: Floods and Flash Floods happen in all 50 states. It only takes an inch of water to cause significant damage to ones property. A car can be carried away in only 2 ft. of water.**



## Receive Weather Alerts On Your Mobile Device For Where You Are And Up To Three Other Locations

We would like to introduce you to a new app: Alabama Saf-T-Net. “Alabama SAF-T-Net is a statewide weather alerting service provided at no cost to the residents of Alabama. Designed to notify those in the path of dangerous weather through mobile apps, text messaging, email or voice calls, Alabama SAF-T-Net alerts subscribers for up to four customizable locations – when and where it matters.” And Saf-T-Net is a full featured weather app giving you weather forecast information, radar, and local weather conditions. This technology tracks your location via GPS to give warnings that would affect you where you are plus it will monitor up to three other set locations such as your home, work, or school.

Types of warnings include:

- NWS Tornado Warnings
- NWS Severe Thunderstorm Warnings
- Baron-exclusive Twisting Storm alerts
- Baron-exclusive Dangerous Storm Alerts
- And More.

This app is great if you are on the road a lot or you want to monitor your child’s school. Visit <http://alabamasaftnet.com/home> for more information or search the app store for either Apple or Android systems.

## September 11, 2001 ~ A Date Forever Chiseled Upon Our Hearts and Minds



September 11, 2001 ~ Each year this date rolls around, every one of us can remember exactly where we were on that fateful day. Who could forget those horrific images as we watched them unfold. Our land, our people and our Country was under attack. Over 3000 of our friends, family and countrymen were lost. The scope of it’s tragedy was felt deep in the hearts of our President, our leaders, our people and so many around the world.

So, as this date approaches once again, please take a moment and remember all those that lost their lives that day.

God Bless America and Her People.



This year instead of participating in the Prattville Christmas Parade, we are focusing on the “*Spirit of Giving*”. CERT members are encouraged to give by providing a non-perishable food item for Autauga Interfaith Care Center and/or a monetary donation can be made to CERT for St. Joseph’s Church to benefit the Mary’s Haven charity (a check will be presented to St. Joseph’s via CERT). All donations can be made to Rita Nichols, Treasurer, for one or both charities. Please have all donations turned in by October 17th at the General Meeting.

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Or online at:  
<http://www.citizenorps.gov/cc/showCert.do?id=44767>



## What Does a Glass of Iced Tea and a Hurricane Have in Common?

It is hurricane season again! We have all seen the devastation that hurricanes can dole out on the coast and inland states and we are all familiar with the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale and the categories that hurricanes are labeled with. And it is all about the wind - the faster the wind; the stronger the hurricane. But how much power is that? Now is the time for the glass of iced tea.

We have had our share of beverages over time and we all know about the condensation that accumulates on the outside of a cold glass. What we here in the South call “sweat’n.” The formation of water droplets on the side of the glass from the water vapor that surrounds the glass in the air is an example of a heat engine. It takes energy to turn the vapor into a liquid and that in turn creates heat which loosely can be expressed in watts. (For those with a strong physics background, I emphasize the word “loosely.”) Now it is all about scale.

An average hurricane is a circular area around 825 miles across and from a paper written in 1981 by William Grey, the nation’s leading hurricane forecaster, that about a half an inch of rain falls across that area per day. That would fill

around 22 million Olympic sized swimming pools per day. That’s a lot of sweat’n! So inside a hurricane, the water vapor above the ocean is converted to rain and clouds and heat is produced just like our iced tea glass example. How much heat? 600 trillion watts! That is 200 times what the entire human race creates in a day! (According to 1996 figures.) Thankfully, a hurricane is an amazingly inefficient heat engine. It only uses one half of one percent of that power or 1.5 trillion watts to create its winds. That is about half of the energy creation capacity of humans. The rest creates lifting currents and exits into the atmosphere harmlessly around 8 to 10 miles up. <Source: [Nova](#)>

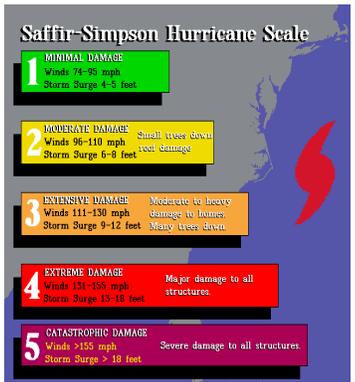
Now that you understand some of the power behind a hurricane, are you prepared? According to [ready.gov](#) the basic list for a family survival kit is:

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert, and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First Aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Infant formula and diapers, if you have an infant

- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Dust mask or cotton t-shirt, to help filter the air
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)

Remember that a Category 5 hurricane on the Gulf Coast could produce up to Category 2 winds here. Be ready!

So the next time you are being fussed at about leaving a water ring on the end table, remember the power of a hurricane and get a coaster.



## We Want To Hear From YOU!!

If you, or any other CERT member has any news, stories, ideas, suggestions, upcoming events, life-events, community involved stories or anything you would like to see in our newsletter, PLEASE let us know. Send all correspondence to [apcertnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:apcertnewsletter@gmail.com).



Community Stories



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